11th September 1946]

Export of rice from the South Arcot district.

* 52 Q.—SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that paddy or rice is exported from the South Arcot district from March 1946;

(b) if so, how much has been exported and how much is going to be exported;

(c) whether the South Arcot district is a deficit or surplus district regarding foodgrains; and

(d) what steps the Government propose to take to stop the export of rice in this year?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) Export quotas of rice from South Arcot district have been allotted only from May 1946 and not from March 1946.

" (b) The total quantity of rice exported from South Arcot district from May 1946 to 12th August 1946 was 8,000 tons being the export quota allotted from that district for May, June and July 1946, viz., 3,000, 2,000 and 3,000 tons respectively.

" A further export quota of 1,000 tons of rice from South Arcot district to each of the districts of Madura, Ramnad and Trichinopoly for August 1946 has been allotted.

" (c) Normally South Arcot district is a surplus district. It is however estimated to be statistically deficit in rice for 1945–46 owing to the failure of north-east monsoon but considered self-sufficient in view of the reduction of rice ration. As regards millets, the district is a deficit one and a quota of 3,830 tons has been allotted to it till the end of August 1946. As there is however a temporary surplus of millets in the district and there was urgent demand in Tinnevelly district, it has been ordered that 700 tons of millets should be transferred from South Arcot to Tinnevelly district.

" (d) The exports of rice referred in reply to the question (b) above were allowed as the total stocks of rice available in the district with wholesalers and procurement agents were far in excess of immediate requirements of the district. The stock of rice with them on 23rd August 1946 was 15,533 tons and on the basis of off-take of 4,357 tons for the previous month, viz., July, the stock is expected to last for nearly three and a half months, i.e., till the first week of December 1946. Due to the serious shortage of rice in most deficit districts, such diversions of temporary surplus in a district, to a district where the need is urgent is inevitable. The Government are having a close watch over stocks and they will arrange to replenish the stocks in a district if it runs out of stock on account of such diversions."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI:—" May I know, Sir, if the paddy stocks at Pathapatnam in the Vizagapatam district are intended for export to the Bengal Province?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—" You may put a separate question."